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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Sixty-ninth session
18 May–5 June 2015
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the fourth periodic report of Eritrea

The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (10,700 words maximum), if possible before 20 April 2015.

The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party.

Part I

In this section, the State party is requested to submit its responses to the following questions.

1. Please provide the Committee with detailed information on the resources allocated for the implementation of children's rights. Please also explain the measures taken to counter corruption in the State party.

2. Please indicate to the Committee whether there is any intention to set up an independent body to receive and effectively address individual complaints by children.

3. Please indicate any measures taken towards explicitly incorporating the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration into the practice of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of power, by, inter alia, including reference to the best interests of the child in legislation regarding child custody, child protection, adoption and juvenile justice.

4. Please provide the Committee with detailed information on the measures taken to prevent and combat stigmatization of, and discrimination against, children, in particular girls, children from nomadic communities, children belonging to ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, children affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or noma, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and intersex children.

5. Please provide details on the requirement for children in their final year of schooling to attend military training camps to complete their high school education. Please comment on reports about the forced conscription of children into the military service, that a number

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of under-18s are currently serving in the Eritrean Defence Force, and about the frequent practice of *Giffa*.

6. Please comment on the reported shooting of 13 children at the border in September 2014. Please indicate what measures are being taken to discontinue the current "shoot to kill" policy. Please also comment on reports that children captured while trying to flee the country are held without charge or trial, are subjected to torture, including sexual abuse, are sometimes given extrajudicial prison sentences and are taken to military training camps.

7. Please comment on reports that children are abducted by the military and, with the help of the State party's border surveillance, smuggled into other countries, where they are imprisoned, tortured or sexually abused in order to obtain ransoms from their relatives, who are threatened with the sale of the children to human traffickers.

8. Please provide information on any measures taken to ensure that children's views are given due consideration in all questions concerning them. Please provide the Committee with further detailed information on the statement in paragraph 127 of the State party report that Eritrean children who come from different ethnic groups have opportunities to air their views and opinions in situations where these are heard and respected.

9. Please inform the Committee of the steps taken to reinitiate the birth registration system. Please also indicate the availability of mobile registration units, especially in rural and remote areas, placing particular focus on access for nomadic communities, internally displaced persons and persons living in refugee camps.

10. With regard to corporal punishment, please inform the Committee of any progress made towards abolishing the right of correction or discipline and the right to administer lawful and reasonable chastisement. The Committee notes that some measures have been taken to promote alternative forms of discipline in the school context; however please indicate any awareness-raising efforts with regard to alternative measures targeting families.

11. Please inform the Committee of any steps taken to criminalize marital rape. Please also indicate the measures taken, if any, to eliminate gender-based violence, and the number of shelters, including in remote and rural areas, to which women and children who are subjected to violence have access.

12. Please provide the Committee with further detailed information on the measures taken to strengthen the implementation of Proclamation No. 158/2007 banning female genital mutilation (FGM), mentioned in paragraph 211 of the State party report, such as a national plan of action or increased information campaigns. Please also elaborate on the measures taken towards providing retraining and alternative sources of income for FGM practitioners.

13. Please indicate the measures taken for the implementation of Proclamation No. 1/1991, prohibiting child marriage under the age of 18 years. With reference to paragraph 208 of the State party report, please also indicate whether there is any intention to abolish the legal exception of 14 years for girls and 16 years for boys to the minimum age of marriage. Please provide further details on the sensitization programmes to curb early marriage, mentioned in paragraph 208 of the State party report.

14. Please provide the Committee with information on the safeguards currently in place to prevent the sale of children through illegal adoptions and on any steps taken towards ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

15. Please provide information on the measures taken to include children with disabilities in all sectors of society, including the school environment, and to undertake

long-term awareness-raising programmes in order to combat negative social attitudes towards children with disabilities.

16. Please indicate the measures taken to further reduce the still high rate of maternal and neonatal mortality, and the large number of children suffering from stunted growth. Please also indicate to the Committee the current budget allocated to child health.

17. Please indicate the measures taken to tackle the impact of noma, which predominantly affects malnourished children up to the age of 6. In addition, please indicate whether the State party has taken any initiatives to ask external partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for help and support to combat the disease.

18. Please elaborate on efforts made to combat poverty, including the close collaboration with external partners such as UNICEF or WHO.

19. Please indicate the measures taken to increase the number of children currently attending school and to improve access to school for children from nomadic communities, in particular regarding the provision of sufficient learning materials and qualified teachers, and of safe drinking water and sanitation. Please also provide information on the outcome of the measures taken to increase girls' school attendance and achievement, mentioned in paragraph 341 of the State party report, and indicate the number of girls who have benefited from those measures. In addition, please indicate any efforts made towards providing all schools with separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls, to prevent girls from missing school when they are menstruating.

20. Please comment on reports that students who refuse to participate in military training are not allowed to sit their leaving examination or receive the school-leaving certificate, are denied access to further education and have their student identity documents taken away.

21. Please indicate the measures taken to provide support to children in street situations and to study the root causes of the problem. Please also comment on reports of several cases of children in street situations being rounded up and imprisoned and beaten by the police.

22. Please inform the Committee of the measures taken to prevent and combat child labour, and provide the Committee with further detailed information on the *Maetot* programme and how it complies with the State party's prohibition of child labour, mentioned in paragraph 22 of the State party's report.

23. Please inform the Committee of the measures taken, if any, towards establishing a specialized juvenile justice system or courts for children.

Part II

In this section the Committee invites the State party to briefly (three pages maximum) update the information presented in its report with regard to:

(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations;

(b) New institutions (and their mandates) or institutional reforms;

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing;

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

Part III

Data, statistics and other information, if available

24. Please provide consolidated budget information for the last three years on budget lines regarding children and social sectors, by indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget and gross national product, and geographical allocation.

25. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data (disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, geographical location, and socioeconomic status) for the past three years on:

(a) Children in military camps;

(b) Child recruitment into the national armed forces;

(c) Children being killed or captured while trying to flee the country;

(d) Child marriage;

(e) Female genital mutilation;

(f) Children hurt or killed by stepping on unexploded devices, and the number of children sensitized on the topic.

26. Regarding the situation of children deprived of a family environment, please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin and geographical location, covering the past three years, on the number of children:

(a) Separated from their parents;

(b) Separated from their parents because of their parents' forced conscription into military service

(c) Living in child-headed households;

(d) Placed in institutions;

(e) Placed with foster families;

(f) Adopted domestically or through intercountry adoptions.

27. Please provide data, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, ethnic origin and geographical location, for the past three years, on the number of children with disabilities:

(a) Living with their families;

(b) In institutions;

(c) Attending regular primary schools;

(d) Attending regular secondary schools;

(e) Attending special schools;

(f) Out of school;

(g) Abandoned by their families.

28. Please provide data, disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex, socioeconomic background, geographical location and ethnic origin, for the past three years, on:

(a) The enrolment and completion rates, in percentages, of the relevant age groups in pre-primary schools, in primary schools and in secondary schools;

(b) The number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions;

(c) The number of children from nomadic communities in school;

(d) The teacher-pupil ratio.

29. Please provide the Committee with an update on any data in the report which may have been outdated by more recent data collected or other new developments.

30. In addition, the State party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.